

By ARTHUR G. MORRISON.
V. -- THE POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE.

But, hive of industry as the Polytechnic is, all work and no play would make Jack, and Jill too, for that matter, very dull Polytechnicians. So leaving the cabinet-making, the upholstery, and the carpentry classes; the repousse and metal chasing shop, with its row of patient tappers of sheets of metal and lumps of pitch; passing quickly through the engineers' shop, with its bright, smooth metal and quietly running lathes; the chemical laboratories, the printing shop, and fifty others, we walk into a magnificent lecture hall, electric lighted, softly carpeted, and excellently furnished. Perhaps if this place looks like a study, then so it is. It is covered with books, and there are desks and benches

crowded with the victims of syphilitic disease, and especially with that form familiarly known as scarlet fever, which is very fatal to the dear little ones at home, ought to be a warning to all parents to see that their children are supplied with a suitable aliment for their helpless babies and young children. Scarcely has the recent epidemic been traced to the disease of the milk-pail, when it has been ascertained that the milk of unsuitable animals is so often sold, and that the milk of the deep brands of condensed milk are full of the germs of disease and death. It therefore becomes the horrid duty of the State to protect the public from the sale of such milk, and to spread abroad, to compel the guardians of the young, to point out a sure means whereby they can be protected from the perils of disease. Dr. Rusk's Food-comb, merely because it is a food, is not a medicine, and it is not a medicine which is "good" for babies being weaned, for young children, invalids, or even for the aged. It is a perfectly cooked alimentary food, and even if the milk of the cow from which it is prepared is

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THE MADMAN'S WIFE.

BY ELIE BERTHET.

(Translated from the French.)

CHAPTER IX.

THE LAWYER.

It will be remembered that Raymond Lalande had taken in the Rue d'Assas a magnificent studio suitable to the execution of large pictures. The apartment occupied by his family was adjoining, so that the painter had only to go up a few steps from his work when he wished to have a little relaxation.

The studio was encumbered with curiosities and precious things of all kinds. Besides Lalande's own pictures and studies there were some painted by his friends, most of them celebrated like himself, also antiquities brought from Rome, bronzes, marbles, tapestry, richly brocaded stuffs, and rare carpets, all of them being accessories which figured in his works. A monumental stove, filled with wood or coke, kept the apartment at a gentle temperature, very necessary for the scantily-dressed models, who often sat for days together to him. To this studio once a week Raymond's brother artists and friends came in attendance, and overwhelmed the artists with exaggerated praise, and that to such a degree that sometimes a man of very small talent ended by thinking himself a genius, and was overcome with fury when more impartial judges refused him the title.

"We have already learnt, it was not so easy to obtain admission to Raymond's apartments; the artist displayed extraordinary jealousy where his wife was concerned, and no one was admitted to see her without the husband's thorough approval. These apartments were richly decorated, as Raymond wished Clemence to be surrounded with comfort and every possible luxury, and he had not hesitated to run into debt for this purpose. The furniture was sumptuous; whatever the most ingenious mind could imagine in the shape of refinement had been lavished on the "nest" of his adored wife. Besides this, they lived extravagantly; they had a large establishment of servants, and everything denoted wealth.

Did Clemence really enjoy this splendour? She had never forgotten Raymond's noble conduct towards herself and the whole family, therefore her feeling for him was that of firm affection based on esteem and gratitude. Nevertheless, many things disturbed the tranquillity of the household. In the first place, the unjust and unreasonable jealousy of Raymond, who, notwithstanding his offensive precautions, saw enemies to his conjugal happiness in all those who approached him; and, in the second, however large the artist's earnings might be, he was reticent about that respect, and continually and seriously in severe straits for want of means. He also insisted on taking charge of Clemence's family—that is to say, of Madame Bordier and Paul, whom he had received into his house, and who lived entirely with the young couple. Madame Bordier, who was always ill, did not go out; Clemence, on her side, hardly left the invalid. The young husband was worried by the daughter's affection for her mother, and he had allowed her to see his annoyance on various occasions. As for Paul Bordier, who still continued to be a neighbourly library, he did not show his brother-in-law that respect and deference to which the latter thought himself entitled, and by his pretension to being "the head of the family" quarrels were engendered which might at any moment end in an open rupture.

The poor wife, perplexed by these difficulties, did not enjoy in her home the calm and satisfaction necessary to her after the many shocks she had sustained. But she bore these anxieties and others, which we shall soon hear of, with unaltered sweetness, patience, and resignation. Divided as her duties between her husband and her family, she tried to reconcile them, and showed herself wise in judgment as well as self-sacrificing. The end of winter was approaching, and one day preparations were being made for an evening reception in the artist's studio, which was to be the last of the season. These receptions were not numerous; dancing took place to the sounds of a piano when there were enough dancers, but young men, when good-looking, excited Raymond's suspicions, and for this reason few were invited. Consequently dancing was often neglected for music, singing, and general conversation.

By reason of these drawbacks, Clemence was very anxious that her guests should be well treated in the studio. Her preparations being completed, she had taken her place in the drawing-room by the side of Madame Bordier, who, reclining in an invalid's chair, was present at all the receptions. Raymond insisted on this, not wishing that his wife should remain alone with certain visitors.

Many guests had already arrived and gone when mother and daughter heard in the ante-chamber the noise of a rather violent discussion. Pat out on a terrace, a little uneasy, Clemence rose and went out to see what was the matter, and found a man of common appearance who had insolently walked into the drawing-room without leave. With his hat on his head, he informed Madame Lalande that he did not intend to leave until his account was settled.

The intruder was a cabinet-maker, who demanded payment for the costly furniture with which the house and studio were filled; he complained that Raymond, having paid certain instalments, had put him off several times when applying for the balance.

"Much gentleness and dignity, Clemence asked the dealer to appeal once more to her husband.

"That's all very well, but he is never to be seen," replied the man. "They say he earns no end of money, and he ought therefore to pay his debts. It appears to me that he has no intention of behaving honourably, but he won't humbug me, as he will soon find out."

Madame Lalande succeeded in pacifying him by a few judicious words, and the importunate creditor retired.

"He then returned to her mother, who had overheard everything, and for a time both were silent. At length the invalid said, sighing deeply, "My dear child, similar scenes to these have taken place several times lately. Really, Raymond is too extravagant, and, as your poor father used to say, he does not balance his receipts and expenditure."

"It is quite true, mamma; but I dare not complain. It is not for my sake, and to give me every comfort and luxury, that he launches out into these extravagances? If I venture upon any remark, my husband replies that he knows what is the best use to make of his earnings; he is so irritable and impetuous."

"Yes, the least contradiction seems to upset him. I am very anxious to know what will be the end of the discussion which took place this morning between him and your brother Paul."

"Raymond is headstrong but good-hearted; as soon as his anger is appeased he immediately owns his faults. This misunderstanding will doubtless terminate like so many others—with a shake of the hand between the two brothers-in-law," replied Clemence.

"Pray God it may, Clemence. I often regret that I do not possess a small independent fortune. Alas, I shall die without feeling sure that you and your brother are safe from all eventualities."

"As Clemence was about to speak the bell of the apartment rang, and the maid announced to Madame Bordier that a gentleman, who refused to give his name, desired to speak to her on an important business."

"To me?" said Madame Bordier, overwhelmed with surprise. "There must, doubtless, be some mistake. It is long since I have had business of any kind to transact."

"This is really very extraordinary," remarked Clemence; "but why should you not see the gentleman? I wonder what he wants?"

"Well, remain with me, my dear, and we shall soon learn the purport of this visit."

At a sign from Clemence, the maid introduced

into the room a middle-aged man of grave appearance and dressed in black. He carried under his arm a Russian leather case, which seemed to be full of papers.

He bowed politely, and asked Madame Bordier if she was not the widow of M. Simon Bordier, Jeanne, who was a merchant in the Rue des Jeuneurs. He was answered in the affirmative.

"And, doubtless," he continued, turning to Clemence, "this lady is Madame Raymond Lalande, only daughter of the deceased?"

Again an affirmative reply was given.

"In that case I congratulate myself on my good fortune in finding myself in the presence of the widow and daughter of the late Simon Bordier, for the business which brings me here affects them equally. As to Paul Bordier, as he is a minor, his mother is the proper person to represent him. Allow me then, ladies, to fulfil the mission with which I am entrusted."

The visitor sat down at a table, on which he placed his papers, mother and daughter watching his every movement. He then began:

"I am Maître Noblin, solicitor to the Civil Tribunal of the Seine, and liquidator of the estate of Jerome de Varigny, formerly banker in the Rue de Lamartine."

Madame Bordier suddenly raised her head.

"What?" she said, "is Varigny dead? Has he gone at last to render an account to God for all his sins?"

She stopped and bit her lips. The lawyer did not appear to have heard her.

"He died several months ago," he replied; "and it is in the position of liquidator of his estate that I have the honour to appear before you."

A sudden anxiety took possession of Madame Bordier.

"Sir," she said, lowering her eyes, "if you have called to raise fresh demands on my unhappy husband's estate, it would be quite impossible for me to meet them. You cannot be unaware that I gave up to his creditors, both in my own name and in that of my children, everything we possessed, even my family jewels."

"I am aware, madame, that your conduct has been most honourable, consequently there is no question of further claims."

Maître Noblin then proceeded to explain in legal phraseology, which was very unintelligible to ladies, that the late banker's heirs were desirous of revising all the accounts of the deceased. That revision had been most carefully gone into by qualified accountants, and the discovery had been made that certain sums had been entered which prejudicially affected the house of Bordier and Co.

A new account had therefore to be made, "he continued, drawing out of his leather case a bundle of stamped papers, and by deducting the double entries and calculating the interest at a legal figure, a bonus has been found to be due to the heirs of M. Bordier. The details will be found in the accompanying schedule, and the Varigny estate is also indebted for interest on various sums."

The mother and daughter turned over and over the account which was handed to them; they perceived nothing but formidable rows of figures, of which they understood nothing.

"Well, sir," said Madame Bordier, a little impatiently, "what is it all about? As you do not demand any money—which, indeed, I should be quite unable to pay—what do you want from me?"

"That you should simply receive what is due to you," replied the lawyer, "that is my whole business. According to the account I am empowered to hand you a balance, which, with the capitalised interest, amounts to one hundred and seven thousand and ninety-seven francs twelve centimes. Here they are!"

M. Noblin drew from his case an enormous bundle of bank-notes, which fell on the table with a heavy thud, and he also produced a handful of gold pieces, which he placed in a line to make up the requisite amount.

Mother and daughter looked at each other stupefied at the result of the interview. These precious pieces of paper seemed to be the result of an illusion, and it appeared altogether impossible that they could proceed from such a source.

Clemence whispered in a low voice to Madame Bordier:

"Dear mother, I think I understand. This concerns that young man who brought you home one evening from the Luxembourg, and to whom you spoke so bitterly. Pray reflect before accepting this so-called restitution."

M. Noblin did not hear what the daughter said, but no doubt he guessed the purport of it, for he continued, in a firm voice:

"You can take time to examine these accounts, ladies, and to have them gone through by those accustomed to figures. You will then be assured that no favour has been shown you, and that nothing has been returned to you to which you were not entitled. The interest on the sum advanced has been calculated at six per cent. Anything beyond this was contrary to law. You may therefore in perfect safety accept that which I am ordered to hand over to you."

Madame Bordier remained for a moment in deep thought.

"I accept, sir," she said at last. "From what my husband has often told me the sum you mention is about the amount that the banker Varigny extorted from him unjustly. If it had been returned at the right time it would have saved him from ruin, and perhaps, from death. I do not the less appreciate the honourable scruples of M. de Varigny's heir, and I beg you will convey to him my thanks."

"Such being the case," replied the lawyer hastily, as if he feared that Madame Bordier might change her mind, "let me ask you for an acknowledgment. Here it is, written out all ready, and you have only to sign it."

He produced a document which Madame Bordier looked at in an abstracted manner.

"Perhaps," he continued, "this discharge should be executed also by Madame Lalande, now present; but in that case Madame Lalande would acquire the authority of her husband to do so. As it is simply an extra-judicial act, and one of good faith, which is in question, the signature of Madame Bordier, who will, doubtless, settle with her children, is sufficient."

Madame Bordier no longer hesitated to append her signature to the receipt, which the lawyer placed in his pocket-book; he then rose quickly, and bowing in a ceremonious manner, hurried towards the door, fearing no doubt that some embarrassing question might be put to him.

The invalid, being unable to rise, simply returned his bow, but Clemence accompanied him to the door of the drawing-room, and as he once more bent his head, said in a low voice:

"He who has sent you is a good man as well as a wealthy one."

The lawyer smiled knowingly; Clemence, as if ashamed of what she had said, blushed, and bowing to him, rejoined Madame Bordier.

CHAPTER X.

AN ACT OF MADNESS.

Left alone with the pile of banknotes before them, the mother and child fancied that they must be the victims of hallucination.

"Can it be possible!" said Clemence, passing her hand over her eyes. "Are you certain, mamma, quite certain, that this money is really ours, and that some one, through a feeling of civility, has not merely made us a gift of it?"

"I am certain, my child," replied Madame Bordier. "I do not, of course, know your father's affairs well enough to check each item in the account, but I recognised many of the sums which were in vain demanded by him, and which belonged to him by right. This scrupulous accuracy in certain details makes me conclude that the rest is correct. Be quite satisfied, therefore, that the money is really ours. You fancy that from an exaggerated feeling of delicacy, that heart-breaking poverty of which we were formerly the victims. The heir, M. George de Varigny, seems to be ashamed of his father's acts, and desires to make amends for them to the utmost of his power, but he has kept within the limits of a legitimate restitution, and

no doubt he knows that we are too proud to accept anything from him as a gift."

"I am sick of that!" you take a great weight off my mind. If it is, as you say, let us be thankful indeed, for this unexpected wealth is really a gift of Providence."

Madame Bordier's face was lighted up with happiness. "You will now be able to pay off all those insolent creditors, who worry Raymond so incessantly. One half of this sum belongs to you, and the other half to poor Paul, whose commercial career it will help to forward. You are right in saying that this money is a gift from God? I, too, only recently most ardently longed for it, and my heart's desires are now accomplished. I can die in peace!"

As she finished these words a hurried step was heard in the ante-chamber.

"Here comes Raymond," said Clemence.

The door was thrown open noisily, and Raymond, in the eccentric dress which he wore in his studio, burst into the room.

With a flushed face he rushed up to his wife, gave her several kisses, and said:

"What! have you received, Clemence? I heard the bell ring twice, but I had a rich connoisseur with me, the Prince of Villa-Franca, who seemed to delight, devil take him, in ogling the models. Who has been here?"

"We have had two visits, Raymond," replied Clemence; "the first was Girard, the furniture dealer, who wanted his money, and asked for it, too, in anything but a polite manner."

"You should have kicked him out of the house," exclaimed the painter, "the humbug, to bother me for the few thousand francs that I still owe him! Let him not come near me! I will make him eat his insolent words! I'll break his neck!"

"Better pay him, my dear Raymond," replied Clemence, smiling, "and the second visitor furnishes you with the means. See!" and she pointed to the money lying on the table.

"Good heavens!" exclaimed Lalande, "what is this?"

"That, my dear Raymond, is a sum of a hundred and seven thousand and odd francs, which has descended like a gleam of sunshine upon us all."

"Whence does it come? Tell me, is it the price of some new orders which I have received?"

"Don't worry yourself as to where the money comes from, it belongs in the first place to my mother."

"Nonsense, Clemence," interrupted Madame Bordier. "What belongs to me belongs to my children also. It is a question, Raymond, of restitution, made to me in the name of M. George de Varigny, the son and heir of the man who was the cause of all our misfortunes."

Lalande's face clouded over.

"An heir who makes restitution?" he replied. "I don't believe it. Is not this Varigny a tall, dark fellow that I sometimes meet when I go out with Clemence?"

"It is possible, certainly," replied Clemence, "we may have passed him accidentally two or three times. But he has never spoken, nor has he even bowed to us."

"Accidentally!" repeated Lalande, grinding his teeth. "And pray what does the fact of his not bowing to us prove?"

"You are odd, Raymond. You are very unjust to this young man, whom we only know through a service rendered by him to my poor suffering mother. Since then he has been most reserved in his behaviour towards us."

But he turned him forward by making you a present of more than a hundred thousand francs," replied Raymond, violently. "That costs him but little, as he has inherited I don't know how many millions. Now, it will be necessary to go and thank him, unless he comes here himself to receive our acknowledgments. By all that's holy, I will not put up with it!"

Clemence could not restrain her tears.

"Once more I say that you are unjust towards that young man, and to us also."

Raymond stamped his foot.

"Raymond," interposed Madame Bordier, in a severe tone, "I beg you to see the slightest reason for holding any intercourse with the son of our most cruel enemy. He has done nothing but his duty in restoring the money stolen from us by his father, and, as a matter of fact, he deserves no thanks."

"You think so, madame," exclaimed Lalande. "I am convinced to the contrary, and that it is not a question of restitution whatever, but of a present. Therefore, it is not only incumbent on me to forbid any visit from this M. de Varigny, but also to return his money without delay, and this I will undertake to do."

He approached the table and rolled up the bank notes preparatory to putting them in his pocket.

"What are you thinking of, Raymond?" said Madame Bordier, in an authoritative manner; "in addition to the fact that that money belongs to us by right, I gave him an acknowledgment for it, and we are bound to keep it."

"What does it matter," replied Lalande, continuing what he was doing. "I won't have this money. It would soil our hands."

"Sir, I do not recognise your right!"

"My dear Raymond," exclaimed Clemence, "is this not madness?"

The word seemed to bring the painter's excitement to a climax.

"Madness!" he repeated. "And is it you Clemence who accuses me of being mad? I will prove to you that I am neither mad nor blind! This gallant, who is infatuated by his ill-earned millions, has taken this means to introduce himself into my house; the present offered to your mother is really addressed to you. I'll not have it, do you hear? No, I'll not have it, and he crumpled up the bank notes convulsively in his hands."

"Raymond," replied Clemence, in a supplicating tone, "what you ask is impossible. This money has been wrongfully taken from us. Surely we cannot so far insult M. George de Varigny as to return him what his conscience obliges him to send us, especially as he separated himself from his father, and condemned himself to a miserable life, so as not to share in his shameful wealth."

"Ah! you defend him!" exclaimed Lalande, now quite beside himself. "You approve of his acts; you actually accept his presence! See! I will prove to you that I am neither mad nor blind! This gallant, who is infatuated by his ill-earned millions, has taken this means to introduce himself into my house; the present offered to your mother is really addressed to you. I'll not have it, do you hear? No, I'll not have it, and he crumpled up the bank notes convulsively in his hands."

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pointing to the blackened places of paper which were fluttering on the fire.

Excited by his mother's appeals, Paul attempted, without yet understanding exactly what had taken place, to approach the fireplace. Raymond seized him by the arm to push him back. Paul was not in the least in temper, and defended himself with vigour. The result was a conflict between the two brothers-in-law.

The poor women redoubled their cries. Clemence endeavoured to separate Paul and Raymond. The invalid stretched forth her hands towards them, and said in a broken tone of voice:

"Peace, my children, I implore you. The sacrifice is made, and we will not speak again of this sum, which we never expected to receive. For my sake, cease this unnatural struggle. You are killing me," and she fell back exhausted.

"See!" cried Clemence, running to her, "our mother is dying."

Such was the fury of the two combatants that her entreaty had no effect upon them, and the fight continued. Paul probably wished to help his mother, but being in danger from Raymond's inconceivable fury it was necessary for him to defend himself. Both had their clothes torn to pieces, and the blood was running down their faces. No one could have told how this scandalous scene would end, when, through the half-open door of the drawing-room, the maid, terrified and trembling, introduced a fresh personage.

This was no other than Legoff in his Sunday clothes and his woollen gloves. After considerable hesitation he had decided to pay a visit of ceremony to Madame Lalande, and arrived just in time to witness the encounter.

Although slow in speech, Legoff was often quick in action. One glance made him understand the necessity of intervention. With his hat still on his head, he threw himself between the young men, and by his superior strength separated them, saying in his dry way: "What! two brothers-in-law fighting! You remain quiet, little one," he added, addressing Paul. "As for you, M. Lalande, what I feared has then happened?"

These words had the effect on Raymond of a pall of cold water thrown on his head. He suddenly became calm.

"What! the devil are you talking about, Father Legoff?" he asked. "Nothing has happened, and nothing will. Only I don't intend to be lectured in my own house, and especially I don't mean to be a—deceived husband. There, leave me alone. I forgive this naughty boy who is always aggravating me."

"I am the head of the family," said Paul wiping the blood from his face, "and I will not be interfered with. I will at once leave the house, for I will have nothing further to say to this lunatic."

Clemence, who was attending to her mother, said to this moment: "Father Legoff!"

"Silence, all of you, in the name of heaven!" she said, wringing her hands in grief. "This excitement has given the finishing blow to our poor invalid. Do you not see she is dying?"

It was, indeed, not a fainting fit that Madame Bordier was suffering from. In the midst of these dreadful shocks the spring of life had broken. Her features became fixed, a glassy look came into her eyes—she hardly breathed.

No one could be mistaken as to these dreadful signs. Raymond exclaimed:

"A doctor! I will send my man Foinet to fetch him. Who would have thought that the mother would have been so affected by a simple wrestling match between us," and he hastened out to give the necessary orders.

"The doctor will come too late!" murmured Clemence, and she continued to do all she could for her mother.

Madame Bordier had not lost consciousness, although she was undoubtedly near her end. She turned to her children to approach her. They knelt before her, and each one took her hand, weeping bitterly.

For a time no sound proceeded from her lips except a few unintelligible words. At length she said distinctly:

"Poor! poor children! Forgive him—his reason—at times—I foresee many misfortunes—Bear them with courage—May God protect you—and me also!"

She shut her eyes, a slight sigh escaped her lips, and her hands pressed those of Clemence and Paul. She was dead.

At this moment Lalande returned.

"Foinet has started," he said, "the doctor will not be long in arriving."

Overcome with grief, Clemence did not reply; but Paul, pointing to the inanimate body of his mother, said:

"See what you have done, Raymond. I will never forgive you."

Raymond's fit of anger having passed off he had recovered all his natural good qualities. Instead of being once more irritated with Paul, he knelt down by his side and burst into tears.

"He reproaches me," thought Legoff, observing Raymond weeping. "This is not, therefore, the final crisis. All this is dreadfully sad, and on the only occasion, too, that I have ever tried to act the man of the world. I have no luck! Visits of ceremony, indeed!"

He, however, offered to render whatever services might be required of him on such a melancholy occasion.

(To be continued.)

A SAD CAREER OF CRIME.

Forrest Sutherland, a most career during the last few years has been a very remarkable one, has been sentenced at the assizes at Salisbury to five years' penal servitude. He pleaded guilty to a charge of forging Lord Lichester's name to a request for £5, and there were other charges against him, to which he pleaded guilty, but these were not investigated.

The prisoner was at one time a sergeant-major in the Royal Artillery. In January, 1886, he deserted, and in May last year he was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to fifteen months' hard labour for forging the cheque for £25. After this punishment he was tried by court-martial for desertion, for losing by neglect his regimental clothing and necessities, and for embezzling about £30. He heard that it was decided that he should undergo a year's imprisonment, but he escaped from the guard-room, and subsequently committed the forgery he now admitted, after which he went to Southampton, where he got taken into custody for drunkenness, and he was eventually handed over to the Salisbury police, with the result above indicated.

FATAL FIRE AT LANCASTER.

At noon on Thursday a fire occurred in a four-story building at the table baize works of Messrs. Storey Brothers, Lancaster. A piece of oil cloth passing through a travelling machine ignited spontaneously, and the whole block was soon in flames. Twelve jets of water were turned on, but the place was gutted before the fire could be extinguished. Between thirty and forty men were working in the block, and all escaped with the exception of two, whose bodies were found on the staircase almost charred beyond recognition. The deceased were Thomas Moore, aged 33 years, and Robert Butler, aged 41. It is supposed they were overcome by the smoke.

Dr. de Jones's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil—Its Usefulness in Liver and Kidney Diseases as Described by a Physician—Thomas Hunt, Esq., Late Medical Officer of Health, St. Giles's and Bloomsbury, writes:—"In badly-nourished infants, Dr. de Jones's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is invaluable. The rapidity with which two or three teaspoonfuls a day will fatten a young child is astonishing. The weight gained is often times the weight of the child swallowed, or more; and, as children generally like the taste of Dr. de Jones's Oil, and when it is given them, often cry for more, it appears as though there were some prospect of deliverance from the appalling multitude of children who yearly die of the weekly bills of mortality issued from the office of the Registrar-General."

Dr. R. C. Croft, Author of "Handbook for the Nursery," writes:—"I have tried Dr. de Jones's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil, and find that it contains all the properties which render the Oil so efficacious. I find, moreover, that many patients prefer it to the Pale Oil, and that it is more comfortable. It is almost a specific in many of the Diseases peculiar to Infancy and Childhood, and I have seen marked benefits produced by its use."

Dr. de Jones's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsules, in imperial half-pint, and in quart, and in gallon bottles. Sole Commission Agents, Messrs. Hunt, and Co., 210, High Holborn, London, W.C. Never be induced to purchase other Cod Liver Oil, under the deceptive pretence that they are as good as Dr. de Jones's—(Lancet.)

A MOTHER CHARGED WITH MANSLAUGHTER.

Dr. Thomas held an inquiry at the Ossington Coffee Tavern, Marylebone, relative to the death of Jane Mulchay, aged 8 months, the daughter of a widow, whose death, it was alleged, was caused by neglect and starvation.—Police-constable Herbert Lee stated that on the 8th inst., when on duty in Marylebone-lane, he saw the woman Mulchay lying on a doorstep drunk, and she had the child with her. It was very cold, and it had only on a chemise. He told her to wrap the child up and keep it warm, which she refused to do, telling him to mind his own business, on which he took her into custody. At the police station the child was found to be emaciated and in a dirty condition. It was wrapped in some blankets and taken to the workhouse. The mother had been twice charged with drunkenness.—Dr. W. Rayner, medical officer of St. Marylebone Workhouse, stated that he saw the child when brought to the workhouse on the 5th inst., when it was in a very bad condition, whilst it had scarcely any food, and it had resulted from exhaustion, following malnutrition, but what had caused that he could not state for certain, as the coroner said.—After some further evidence, the coroner said that he had no doubt this was a case where the mother had neglected the child owing to her drunken habits.—The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the mother, Ellen Mulchay, who was then taken into custody.

THE OUTRAGE IN LAMBETH.

Collingwood Hilton Fenwick, 26, described as a gentleman of independent means, residing at 54, Methley-street, Kennington-road, was charged on Wednesday, before Mr. Slade, with unlawfully cutting and wounding Ellen Worsford, with intent to do her grievous bodily harm. Mr. Sims prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury; and Mr. St. John Wortner appeared for the prisoner. The facts of the case were fully reported in the People last week. It will be remembered that the prisoner met the prosecutrix in the Westminster Bridge-road, and accompanied her to her home in Ann's-place, Waterloo-road, and there, without any apparent motive, stabbed her in the abdomen with a penknife. The prisoner

On Tuesday, at Cambridge, H. C. L.
set all previous performances at a quarter

sound common sense, to carry convictions to the minds of his audience. His work in connection with the Anglers' Benevolent Society, which has been so ably aided by the members of the Anglers' Club, will not be forgotten, for to him is due the credit of the splendid system of organisation which has resulted in the success of both. The story of his connection with the Thames Angling and Fishing Society, which has been fully told in the columns, gives striking proof of his disinterestedness and absolute incapability of countenancing a selfish or illegitimate purpose. It is an appearance of the highest order, and one which will be remembered by all who saw it. If I could recall Mr. Green I should believe that I had indeed done well in the introduction of him to the Club, and that I should have every angler, and I can only hope to do so hereafter, him that thousands of anglers will endorse.

THE ACTOR.

The management of the Lyric Club made an excellent selection of professional artists to add fun and frolic for the company on the night. What more popular tenor is there than Mr. Ben Davies? What entertainer is liked than Mr. Grossmith? Who excels in Robert Standing in the arts of recitation and mimicry? And who can tell a more dramatic story than Mr. Giddens? Then, there is Arthur Sullivan at the piano, and among

[illegible]

Aldermen are such sacred beings that I at the very idea of appearing to deal with irreverently. Duty compels me, nevertheless, to ask whether it was the alderman connected with the Metropolitan Board of Works scandal who so loftily exclaimed, after reading the strictures on the commission, "My character is like mine—shall the better for blacking." If his character is so precious, he must not allow himself to derive no more benefit from the process than a blacking man's character has, they must look precious dirt.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Monday.
Irish Land Purchase.

The **SOLICITOR-GENERAL** for IRELAND, on behalf of Mr. Balfour, moved for leave to introduce a bill to extend the provisions of Lord Ashbourne's Act for facilitating the purchase of land in Ireland. He said that when Lord Ashbourne's Act was passed in 1855 it met with unqualified approval, except that the Opposition urged the Government to spend £20,000,000 instead of £5,000,000 upon its objects. The Act had not belied the expectations of those who introduced it. Up to the 31st of October last the signed agreements for purchase numbered 14,588, and of these 8,633 had actually been closed, leaving of pending transactions under the Act, 5,706. He did not mean to say that the signed agreements had exhausted the five millions, but the total amount of applications would exceed that amount by a million. The statistics showed that the very class of tenants whom the Government desired to benefit had benefited by the Act. Of the £20,000,000 which had accrued under the Act, only £1,109 remained uncollected; and, with the exception of £170, that amount had become due not later than May last. More satisfactory figures could not be presented to the House. The two alternatives before the House were the abandonment of the Land Purchase scheme or its moderate extension. Mr. GLADSTONE, in moving an amendment, that, in lieu of proceeding with the present bill, it was expedient to empower the Land Court to reduce or cancel arrears of rent found to be excessive as well as to deal with the rents themselves after the example of the Scotch Crofters Act, argued that the Government ought to have asked Parliament for a provisional sum to carry on Lord Ashbourne's Act till the next session, when the whole policy of that Act should have been considered. He would have agreed to the amount being voted. He regarded arrears as the one urgent subject which was entitled to the attention of Parliament. The bill was aimed at withdrawing Irish land purchase from the view of Parliament for two or three years more. This application for five millions was a precedent for a third and a fourth demand, and the House would be drawn into a large and dangerous plan, from which it could not escape. He deprecated the State becoming landlord, with no intermediate funds or guarantees except the crowbar backed with rifles for the purpose of enforcing the claim of the State. It was impossible to promote such a scheme for the extension of peasant proprietors until the tenant had been placed in a position of security against the intimidating pressure of the landlords, who worked the arrears so as to increase the rent, and thereby to obtain a higher purchase money for the holding than was just. He concluded by inviting the Speaker to state the grounds on which the bill had not been introduced in Committee as money bills usually were.—The **SPEAKER**, having stated the technical reasons for the bill being introduced as it had been, the **CHANCELLOR** of the EXCHEQUER said that the bill did not contain the final plans of the Government with regard to the land question. There was no parallel, in fact, between the Scotch crofters and the Irish tenants, because the arrears of the former had never been checked by a judicial court. Mr. Gladstone forgot that the Government had proposed to deal with arrears, but were not allowed, unless the same were dealt with precisely in accordance with the views of the Opposition. The Government were still willing to deal with these arrears on the same terms. Mr. Gladstone, in his Home Rule measures, had offered the landlords twenty years' purchase, whereas under Lord Ashbourne's Act the average was only 17½ years, so that the assertion that the landlords were working the arrears to drive a hard bargain with the tenants was incorrect. He maintained that the State had sufficient security in the deposit of one-fifth of the purchase-money by the landlords and in the valuable tenant right of the tenant, and he described this process of increasing peasant proprietors in Ireland as the rival of the Land League. Mr. PHILLIPS delivered his maiden speech, and Mr. MALDANE, a Gladstonian, declared that he would vote against the bill as one for shovelling English gold into the pockets of the Irish landlords.—Mr. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN contended that, before doubling Lord Ashbourne's experiment, the House should receive full details, showing how the experiment had worked, and that the existence of such a class of peasant owners would render it impossible to deal with the Land Question on a complete scale.—The debate was adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Tuesday.

The Lord Chancellor on the Defensive.

The **LORD CHANCELLOR** offered a personal statement in reply to the attacks made upon him in the other House with regard to his exercise of patronage in making legal appointments, and while protesting against the appointment and indiscriminate Government of individuals, undertook that a vigilant watch should be kept to ensure economy and efficiency in the legal establishment he was responsible for.

The Slave Trade in East Africa.

The **EARL** of Dunraven having called attention to the correspondence relating to the suppression of the slave trade in East African waters, and asked for information, the **MARQUIS** of SALISBURY said he had strong ground for believing that the German Government had no intention of resorting to action on shore; and we had only engaged in certain naval operations, without the slightest intention of entering upon military operations. We were acting as allies of the Sultan of Zanzibar in blockading his rebellious subjects who were engaged in the slave trade, and there were precedents for such a course of action. The French Government had expressed an opinion that there was no feeling of hostility or danger of friction between the Government of Germany and France.—Satisfaction with this statement having been expressed by the **EARL** of Kimberley and **EARL** Granville the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Tuesday.

The Bill Introduced.

SIR E. GAVIN in resuming the debate on the proposal to extend the provisions of Lord Ashbourne's Act, said he could not support the amendment, as no instance had been brought forward of a purchase under the Act at an unfair price.—Mr. DILLON denounced the bill, because the Ashbourne Act was not impartially administered, and was used to force up the price of land in the landlord's favour.—Lord GEORGE HAMILTON contended that it was the symptoms of returning prosperity in Ireland, and the desertion by Mr. DILLON was the organisation of which Mr. DILLON was the mainstay, that forced the gentleman and his friends to oppose the bill. The bill would be good for the landlords, but it would be better for the tenants, and if the progress of Lord Ashbourne's Act was arrested those tenants for whom this bill was intended would be cut out from its benefits.—Mr. SRAW LUTYENS said the bill was not accepted by the Irish people; it was fraught with danger in the future, and was not in accordance with sound political principles.—Mr. FRANKER MACKINTOSH, as a Liberal Unionist, opposed the amendment, and Mr. S. SMITH, a Gladstonian Home Ruler, was in favour of both the bill and the amendment, but would vote for neither.—Colonel SANDERSON supported the bill as the most popular measure ever introduced into the House.—Lord HARTINGTON held that the amendment was not a legitimate amendment, because it was not in the least connected with the subject matter of the bill. The Government and subject party had never refused to deal with the bill, and had made proposals, but had failed because a difficulty had been found in the mode in

which the subject was to be dealt with. The principle of this bill had already been approved by Parliament, and had been successful; and Parliament could be guilty of no more wanton or mischievous act than abandoning a policy which had been attended with unqualified success.—Mr. MONAGHAN contended that the most urgent question was the taking of the bill, and that the Government were bound to make use of their majority in order to carry through the House the bill in order of dealing with them. He objected to the bill because it was an indefinite postponement of the land question—it was a hazardous experiment, and because the House was committing itself to an indefinite expenditure on utterly false and erroneous principles.—Mr. W. H. SMITH vindicated the action of the Government in introducing the bill during the present sitting.—The House thereupon divided, and Mr. Gladstone's amendment was defeated by 329 to 246.—The motion for leave was agreed to, and the bill was introduced.

COMMONS--Wednesday.

Further Debate.

The **SOLICITOR-GENERAL** for IRELAND moved the second reading of the Irish Land Purchase Bill.—Mr. LABOUCHERE moved its rejection, as he was utterly opposed to the principle of land purchase under an Imperial guarantee.—Mr. BRADLAUGH seconded the amendment, contending that the bill was a violation of the principle of non-interference with the settlement of the land difficulty.—Mr. HOWARTH defended the bill.—Mr. E. ROBERTSON opposed it, because he was hostile to any scheme whatever of land purchase.—Mr. DARLING, Sir W. PLOWDEN, and other members having addressed the House, Sir G. TREVELYAN opposed the bill, as it was dangerous in the highest degree to convert the Government into a landlord in large districts in Ireland, with good and bad tenants alike, and with no local guarantee such as had been in every previous bill.—Mr. BRADLAUGH replied, denying that the Crimes Act had been worked with a view to raise prices, and maintaining that unfairness in the terms of purchase was provided against by the approval of the Land Commission being required to them.—The debate was adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS--Thursday.

Common Lodging-houses.

The **HOME SECRETARY**, replying to Mr. Howell, said he had been informed by the police authorities that they knew of no case in which a constable had stated that common lodging-houses were the resort of notorious characters. No doubt a certain number of the criminal class did live in such houses, but the owners of the lodging-houses were ready, as a rule, to assist the police in any inquiry, and the inmates were under police supervision to a greater extent than would be the case if they lived elsewhere. He had for some time past been in communication with the Local Government Board and the police with a view to ascertaining whether the legislation with regard to common lodging-houses could not be improved.

The "New Wimbledon."

Mr. STANHOPE informed Mr. Hanbury that in a few days he would be able to give full information with regard to the site to be selected for the New Wimbledon. It was obvious that if Parliament was to be asked to contribute any money it would be entitled to be consulted in the matter of the site. (Hear, hear.)

British Museum.

Mr. W. H. SMITH, in answer to Mr. Norris, stated that in accordance with the pledges given in the debate on the vote for the British Museum, communications would at once be made to the trustees of the museum as to opening on week day evenings a portion of it.

The Bill Read a Second Time.

Mr. PARNELL resumed the debate. In giving his reasons for voting against the second reading, he desired, first of all, to declare most emphatically that he approved absolutely and without reservation of the principle of the bill. He would vote against the second reading because he believed it was so designed under the present circumstances as to render it impossible that the principle could be duly and efficiently carried out. It was not true that they opposed the bill for the purpose of adding to the difficulties of government in Ireland. It would be most cruel and unrighteous in them to seek to make political capital out of this land question. It was to prevent loss to the Exchequer, and in order that the bill might be made to carry out its avowed and ostensible object, to benefit the Irish tenant, that they now opposed it. He further objected to the bill because it did not contain provisions which would enable the State, which was to supply the money, to decide what tenancies and estates it was desirable to purchase in the public interest. There was an absence in the bill of any attempt to conciliate the national sentiment. That was very important. What gave strength to the Land League? It was the national sentiment that was the backbone of the Land League. In the bill that sentiment was trampled on.—Lord K. CHURCHILL earnestly hoped that the exertions made for the restoration of law and order and the influence of Irish members would enable the principles of land purchase to be carried out. Mr. Parnell had said there was nothing in the bill to conciliate personal prejudice. He would appeal to him was there room when dealing with a dry matter of fact—viz., the advance and the repayment of money, for the introduction of concessions to national sentiment and romance? (Ministerial cheers.) He would like to ask Mr. Parnell what alternative he proposed to the bill. The statement that the operation of the bill would be in Ireland militated against the scheme of land purchase he certainly could not accept. (Ministerial cheers.) The main objection of English members to the bill was that it would be the precursor of similar measures in England and Scotland. As a financial operation, the bill was not good enough. (Laughter.) The security for the advance was totally insufficient.—Mr. GOUGHEN said it was an absolute and entire misapprehension to say that the bill would lead to a demand for thirty or forty millions. The bill was not a redemption of the Government's debt, but a redemption of the great land question in Ireland; it was a temporary experiment justified by what had gone before, to enable the Government to tide over until their other proposals could be made. The margin of security was extremely small, and it would not be justifiable to continue so small a margin for large transactions.—Mr. J. COLLINGS said he could not understand Liberal members going up and down the country expressing themselves favourable to allotments, small holdings, and peasant proprietors, and then, when they were in the House, with a small moderate measure of an experimental character, the success of which would be the greatest argument to secure similar advantages for England, they voted dead against it. He strongly supported the bill.—Sir W. HARCOURT contended that the bill had been brought forward in the interests of the Irish landlords, and complained that neither the Government nor the House, which had to vote the money, were in possession of any information that would justify the granting of the five millions.—The **SOLICITOR-GENERAL** for IRELAND denied that the bill—either in its actual operations or its tendency—would have the effect of getting rid of Irish landlords. He would describe it as a measure for getting rid of dual ownership. He failed to find any real attempt to prove that the Ashbourne Act had not been a success.—After some further discussion the House divided, 229 against, 224 majority for the Government, 73; the House afterwards adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS--Tuesday.

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VOLUNTEER GOSSIP.

(Communications intended for this column should be delivered at the office not later than 4 p.m. on Thursdays.)

At last! It is evident Mr. Stanhope said something to the council of the N.E.A. which has not been divulged to the public, for now we hear that so far as the site for the annual camp is concerned, the running of it all in favour of Brookwood. People who thought that if the military authorities ever took the camp and its arrangements in hand the N.E.A. would double up at once, are now changing their opinions, and even adopting those which have been so frequently advocated in this column. What did Mr. Stanhope say? In the House of Commons, it is true, he stated the choice of site rested with the association. But beyond this there is a far more important question which has to be considered. It is simply whether the council will accept the offer of the Secretary of State to use land which will be provided for them by the Crown, subject to the camp being placed under the ordinary regulations of the War Office, or will they exhaust all the funds they have at their disposal and appeal to the public for more in order to continue their present semi-military junketings?

It should be borne in mind that Brookwood adjoins Farnborough. I am not sure where the one begins and the other ends, but at Farnborough are but a range of any distance, and everything nicely under the control of the general officer commanding at Aldershot. The odds are decidedly in favour of the Government offer just now, but then the fancies of the council are as "variable as the shade by the light quivering aspen made." Next week it would not surprise me to hear of their doing something as desperately foolish as they appear to be wisely inclined.

Some remarks of mine with respect to an act of indiscretion committed by a commanding officer in promoting a certain Volunteer to a commissioned rank has resulted in my receiving a letter from a member of the corps referred to, which induces me to think my comments were hardly severe enough. This is what he says:—"There are a lot of resignations this month in the Volunteer Rifles. In one company the colour-sergeant, two sergeants, and several rank and file have left, the reason given being the incompetency of the colonel commanding." At the last inspection of this corps, which the inspecting officer advised the members to stand at ease, but on his arrival on the ground the first order given was to present arms. My correspondent goes on to say it is the old story—the instructors work the men up to concert pitch, and the officers, failing to look up their very few words of command, spoil the whole thing.

Sergeant Smithson, of the 2nd Volunteer (Essex) B. E. D., E. A., has such an honourable record, that I have pleasure in yielding to the request of an old friend in publishing it. He is the winner of the Queen's prize for shooting; third prize 64 and second prize 40-pounder, Shrovetree; first prize, headquarters big gun prize; first prize, repository; first prize (battery), carbine prize. Until recently, Essex has not shone out very brilliantly in the shooting world, but the doughty deeds of Sergeant Smithson tend to impress upon one the idea that after all wise men come out of the East.

What we shall lose by the temporary absence of Colonel Mendenham in South Africa are more than likely to gain. The colonel, as every one knows, took a great interest in our force, and even in days when some of the "old school" were wont to condemn it, he was one of its best and truest friends. He carries away from England the heartiest good wishes of every Volunteer. In South Africa he will find plenty of scope for the exercise of his great administrative abilities in the reorganisation of a Volunteer force, which just at present is sadly in want of looking after.

By the way, it is not perhaps generally known that the R.N.A.V. are liable to serve wherever the R.N.R. are called out. Of course the R.N.A. receive pay and extra remuneration when they are at drill. This is but right and proper, but the R.N.A.V. get more kicks than halfpence. This proposition is a very vague one, as the conditions of service are entirely different. It speaks very well, however, for the R.N.A.V. that they did not kick at being placed under the conditions of the Defence Act.

I wonder what progress is being made with regard to manning our coast defences? The newly-appointed Volunteer brigadiers ought to have been heard from on this subject before now. The distribution of guns to Volunteers is going on surely but steadily. For instance, the 2nd L.A.V. has just received another battery of 20-pounder breech-loading rifled guns, with the necessary ammunition, and store-wagons; and I hear of other brigades being likely to be supplied with similar weapons before the new year opens.

So another good soldier has fallen out of the ranks in the person of Colonel Duncan, E.A. He should ever be remembered by us as one of the most active supporters of the ambulance movement, in which cause he took a great interest. There is hardly a city or town in the United Kingdom in which his eloquent voice has not been raised in the cause of afflicted humanity. One of the chief traits in his character was his excessive earnestness and thorough belief in every thing he took it upon himself to do. He frequently went out of his way to advocate the claims of the V.M.S.C. to further recognition by the Government, and was attended in his last moments by Dr. Stephenson, who is so well-known as the able officer in charge of the Woolwich detachment of that well-known and much esteemed branch of the Volunteer service.

A contemporary is responsible for the following statement, which I have reason to believe has not been made without some foundation—"It is not at all unlikely that the arrangements for the manufacture of the new magazine rifle will be delayed, as the sealed pattern has yet to be prepared, and this cannot be done until certain modifications, alluded to by Mr. Stanhope, have been carried out and submitted to the consideration of the experimental branch. Then these modifications may not be approved, and until the final decision is arrived at, and a definite pattern sealed, there can be no proceeding towards the manufacture of the service supply. Those among whom the experimental weapons have been distributed report very favourably on their serviceability. Such drawbacks as the rifle, in their opinion, possesses, are such as can be readily disposed of without in any degree interfering with the mechanism of the arm itself."

There has been quite a little flutter in Finsbury recently with regard to the motion for the extension of the City Artillery Company. The City Press states that on the motion being placed on the notice paper, the captain at once placed himself in the hands of the commanding officer, intimating his willingness to tender his resignation should his conduct in the eyes of the authorities be considered as demanding that course. The Duke of Portland, in replying to the communication, said he could not think of accepting the resignation, and, what was more, he hoped the motion in question would not be carried. What will come of it?

The muster roll of the Liverpool Volunteers at the end of the year is, on the whole, very satisfactory. The number of efficient gunners out of an establishment of 3,562, is 3,068. In the Engineers the number is 928, out of an establishment of 1,148. Taking the number of infantry enrolled at 4,908, the total number of efficient is 4,466. This makes a grand total of 2,452 efficient Volunteers.

VOLUNTEER REGIMENTAL ORDERS.

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FIRES IN LONDON.

Exciting Scene in Spitalfields.

Great excitement was caused early on Wednesday morning in Brick-lane, Spitalfields, by a fire which broke out between four and five o'clock, at 295, a house and workshop tenanted by Mr. King, upholsterer. When the fire first broke out in a back room of the first floor, there were about a dozen persons in the house asleep—Mr. King, his wife and family, a servant—girl, and several lodgers. The fire had got a firm hold of the building before an alarm was given, and little time was left for the unfortunate occupants to save their lives. A steamer was soon on the scene and at once set to work, while help quickly arrived from Shoreditch, Whitechapel, and Bishopsgate Stations. When Engineer Spindlow and his two comrades burst open the door, they were almost choked by the thick smoke which issued. On arriving on the first floor they helped Mr. King, his wife, and children into the street, and then ascended to the second floor, where the flames were raging intensely. Two lodgers, named Griffiths and Jeffreys, who worked with Mr. King, jumped from the front room, where they were sleeping, into the street, a distance of over twenty feet, and the other lodgers were aided in their escape down the staircase. The poor servant girl, who was only 15 years of age, and who had been only engaged that evening, was found to be surrounded by flames, and when Spindlow caught hold of her she was insensible, having been much burned about the lower parts of the body. Mr. King, who was much burned on the face and hands, and his wife, who was also injured, were taken along with the girl to the London Hospital.

A Railway Station Destroyed.

A fire broke out on Wednesday in the porter's room at Queen's-road Station, Peckham (L.B. & S.C.R.). The alarm was at once given, and several engines and manuals from Old Kent-road, Peckham, Southwark, and other stations were quickly upon the scene. By this time it was found that the fire had good hold upon the platforms of the main and down lines. Some little delay was caused to the work of the engines by a temporary difficulty in getting water, but when this was overcome no time was lost, and, by the exertions of the firemen, the flames were prevented from catching the up line platform. Both the central and down line platforms, including waiting-room, offices, bookstalls, &c., were completely destroyed, and the lines blocked. Gangs of men were quickly started upon clearing work, but for some hours after the fire was extinguished they were still busy, and traffic was at a standstill. All passengers for Peckham or London Bridge had to alight or depart from South Bermondsey.

Professor Syko and Miss Dot Irving appeared in Ohmy's circus for the first time in Blackburn during the last week, in their own clairovoyant and second-sight entertainment. The local press pronounced these artists to be the most accomplished in their business that had ever visited the district.

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"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

There were 35,000 marriage ceremonies in South Australia in 1887.

Fifteen hundred and three arrests were made last week in New York.

Four thousand beggars have been arrested in Paris in the last nine months.

The National Conservative Club-house is to be enlarged by 110 ft. in Pall Mall.

At an election riot in Livingston, Kentucky, six men were killed.

It has been decided to establish a direct line of steamers between Hamburg and Calcutta.

Further reinforcements, it is said, are to be sent to Suakin.

The Royal Commission on Imperial Defences met on Thursday at No. 10, Downing-street, Lord Hartington presiding.

Five French newspaper correspondents have been expelled by the German police authorities.

A shock of earthquake has been felt in various places in California.

The Italian flag has been re-hoisted at Zanibar, and friendly relations have now been restored between Italy and the Sultan.

The Bank of Scotland has offered £100 reward for the capture of the forgers of notes of that bank.

The Empress Frederick of Germany and her daughters arrived at Windsor on Monday on a visit to the Queen.

At last accounts there were no fewer than 1,643 newspapers and periodicals published in Paris.

This number Freemasonry claimed 24.

Rue Mauphin and Taylor High, of Fayette, Missouri, had long cherished an old feud. They determined on a duel. Mauphin is now dead.

A man at Fergus Falls, Minn., discovered an original way of ending his life. Placing one end of a loaded gun in a fire, he held the other against his head. He was killed instantly.

Conformably to the custom of the Russian Imperial family, the marriage of the Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch to the Princess Alexandra of Greece will be solemnised at St. Petersburg.

Stormy weather is reported by the Transatlantic steamers. The Etruria was swept by a huge wave, which killed a seaman and injured five other members of the crew.

Her Majesty's cruiser Hyacinth has hoisted the British flag in the Hervey or Cook's Islands, in the South Pacific. The event was celebrated by the natives with great rejoicing.

Six artillermen left Lynton for Midhurst Castle in a sailing boat on Sunday evening. The boat has since been discovered overturned, and it is feared all six men are drowned.

A gentleman named William Bristow, of 10, Henrietta Villas, Bath, shot himself through the head with a six-chambered revolver in a dressing-room at the Royal Baths.

Robert Buchan was a shoemaker, of 40, Robin Hood-lane, Poplar. A neighbour was horrified to observe him cutting his throat. He shouted and ran towards him, but he arrived all too late. Poor Buchan had been successful.

Henry Koehler was mad drunk. In his madness he threw himself into the North Branch of the river in Chicago. His wife Caroline tried to rescue him and was herself dragged into the river. Both were drowned.

In the French Chamber of Deputies, M. Goblet, in reply to a question, said the Government was taking no part in the blockade of the East African coast, nor had she recognised or conceded the right of search for slaves.

James Bartholomew and William Scott were sentenced at Edinburgh to six and eighteen months' imprisonment respectively for the theft of Lady Vane Tempest's jewels on the 3rd of October.

Sergeant Kendall, of the 1st Northamptonshire Regiment, has been presented at Warley Barracks, by his fellow-sergeants, with a handsome sword upon his having obtained a commission in the 2nd Staffordshire Regiment.

The police have arrested at Lille a gang of six individuals for having several years ago committed thefts at Brussels and Mons of bonds amounting in the aggregate to 500,000 fr., which they negotiated in London.

A verdict of suicide during temporary insanity was returned at an inquest on the body of Police constable Richard Brown, aged 33 years, who shot himself with a revolver in Hyde Park on the 16th inst.

Atlanta, Ga., has a paper house. No wood, brick, or iron is used about the building. It is a neat little store, painted sky-blue, and was erected by a Frenchman. The rafters, the roof, and the flooring are all made of thick, compressed paper boards, impervious to water and as durable as wood.

Mrs. Fawcett tells a good story in illustration of an assertion in regard to the ignorance of many of the new electors. A lady on the day of the election asked her coachman if he had exercised the franchise. He replied, "If you please, m'm, what horse be that?"

Consternation seized the congregation at a chapel at Attleborough, Warwickshire, when it was observed that Mrs. Green, a young married woman, had fallen from her seat and lay on the floor. It was increased when it was found that she was dead.

George Gostley, 50, commercial traveller, has been sentenced by the Sheffield stipendiary to five months' imprisonment for embezzlement. It is estimated that his defalcations amount altogether to about £800. He stated that he had used the money in betting.

It has transpired that two hours before the Royal train arrived at Penrith last week, a stickman was found on the line. It consisted of a heavy sideboard, which had fallen from a goods train. A signal had been rendered unworkable by the accident.

An unmarried man, named William Singleton, was arrested for some offence at Walleend, near Newcastle. On reaching the railway station he forcibly, although handcuffed, threw himself upon the line and was run over by a passing train. When picked up the man was still alive, but he died about noon in the Newcastle Infirmary.

An inquest on the body of Frederick Stephens, a mason, who died during a fight between him and William Davies, a collier, at Ceflymdd, near Pontypridd, has resulted in a verdict of manslaughter against Davies, his brother (Dries Davies), and a mason named James Fitzgerald, all of whom are in custody.

George Welsh, 20, described as a slaughterer, pleaded guilty, at the Central Criminal Court, to stealing a mare, valued at £7, the property of Mr. Frederick Goodyear, at Greenwich. A previous conviction of a similar description was proved against him, and he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

An appeal is made on behalf of John Fitzerald, of Aughanacra, Kerry, who was recently shot by moonlighters and severely wounded. He has a large family dependent on him. Mr. Henry Kimber, M.P., and Mr. James Watson, M.P., have inquired into the case, and already subscribed £10 each to start a fund for his relief.

There is a good story told of a Victorian politician—Mr. Smith. When Minister of Education in Victoria he visited a certain State school, and was told by the head master that the standard of the curriculum was not as high as it should be. "Indeed," replied the Minister, "that must be rectified. I'll see that a carpenter is sent round to have it raised at once."

An attempt was made to hold a National League demonstration at Rear Cross, Tipperary, on Sunday in spite of the Government proclamation. The people were called upon to disperse, and, refusing, were charged by the police. A fierce fight ensued, but ultimately, at the intercession of a priest, the police were temporarily withdrawn, and the people

dispersed. A large number on both sides were injured.

"Pickwick" is to make its appearance in German in Berlin.

A man has died in Transylvania who had eight wives—one at a time, of course.

Lord Sackville's ultimate destination is said to be Madrid, where he will succeed Sir Francis Clare Ford.

The City Commission of Sewers seems at last determined to complete the widening of Peter-lane.

Prince Charles of Sweden is considered one of the handsomest men in all Sweden. He is an officer in the Army.

One of the acts in a recent New York play presented a remarkable guillotine scene and a raving Anarchist mob.

The Rev. George Tiley is to be the new vicar of St. Paul's, Camden-square, Camden Town. He has been curate of St. Stephen's, Westminster, since 1880.

Mr. J. W. Ashton, a Cheshire gentleman, was staying at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. When the waiter went to his room, he found him lying dead on the floor.

The Baroness Burdett-Gent has presented the prizes and certificates for Scripture rained at a recent examination of the children in the seven board schools of the Westminster Division.

The political discussions at St. George's Conservative Club for the ensuing winter were opened on Wednesday evening with a speech by Mr. George Wyndham, Mr. Balfour's private secretary, on "Is force no remedy?"

Viscount Cross, Secretary of State for India, has consented to be present at the opening of the Gode Conservative Club by Lord St. Oswald on the 23rd inst. Lord Cross will afterwards address a meeting in the market hall.

Three persons were found dead in bed in Atlanta, Ga., and whisky was the cause of the death in each instance. All three of the deceased had been drinking very hard, and this is the cause assigned for their deaths.

An American steamer which was captured while attempting to enter the harbour of Saint Marc with, as is alleged, rebels and ammunition on board, has been condemned by the Haytian prize court.

It is reported from Tientsin that the Chinese Government have received information to the effect that a secret treaty has been concluded between Russia and Corea, which provides for Corea being placed under Russian protection.

Prado's lawful wife, Madame Garcia, of Marcella, has been received by the ex-Queen Isabella, who showed the deepest interest in her sad story and gave her 2,000 francs. Her Majesty also promised to use her influence at Madrid to obtain a situation for the innocent victim of the murderer.

At Kilmarnock, George Edie, collier, has been committed for trial for seriously wounding Edward Linn, labourer. The two men are poachers, and during a quarrel late on Saturday night Edie is alleged to have deliberately shot at Linn, several of the pellets entering his lungs.

The Council of the National Rifle Association have, it is stated, fixed upon Brookwood, about 25 miles from London, as the site of the New Wimbledon, if the Government, to whom the land belongs, will convey the freehold to the association.

The Lord Mayor presided at the annual meeting of the Workers' Lads' Institute, Whitechapel, and in his address advised the students to acquire modern languages if they wished to hold their own in the world's markets; also counselled them to learn shorthand.

A judge from the Royal Courts of Justice is about to conduct an investigation into the affairs of the Cardiff Savings Bank. The total amount claimed from the trustees and managers is £27,000, of which £11,000 are regular and £16,000 irregular deposits.

Prior to the breaking up of the hulk, the sale by auction of the fittings and effects of the Great Eastern has taken place on board the vessel, as the lay beached on the Cheshire side of the Mersey. Over 300 lots were catalogued, and there was no reserve figure, but the prices were small.

The fact that William D. Howells, the American novelist, spells in English fashion has always caused comment among Americans. "Honour," "parlour," &c., are to be found in the Bostonian's works. The explanation is that he has his works set up in Great Britain, in order to secure English copyright.

At the Central Criminal Court, Edgar Faulkner, late chief clerk and cashier to the Economic Life Office, who pleaded guilty at the last session to charges of embezzling sums amounting to £7,000, was brought up for judgment and sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. He had been forty years in the employ of the company.

Gertrude Grayson, a middle-aged woman, was committed for trial at Leeds, charged with forging receipts for sums of money she had drawn from the Leeds Savings Bank. The prisoner lodged with Mrs. Richardson, and, it was alleged, had stolen her bank book, drawing out at different times a total of £200.

It was announced at a meeting held at Queen's Gate, under the auspices of the Church of England Reform Association, that a memorial prayer for the House of Lords to institute an inquiry by Royal commission into the condition of ecclesiastical and modes of burial was being largely and influentially signed.

At Limehouse, Arthur Chapman, a greengrocer, of 205, Brunswick-road, Bromley, in attempting to stop his horse, which had bolted, was knocked down and the wheels of the van passed over him, fracturing his ribs and inflicting internal injuries which speedily resulted in death. The deceased leaves a widow and nine children.

The congregation at Knockree, near Limerick, left church on Sunday when a man named Ryan, accused of land-grabbing, entered. A similar course was taken by the Nationalist members of the congregation at Castleknock, as the priest was denouncing the boycotting of a local Catholic magistrate.

Dr. Maunwell, a brigade surgeon in the Army, recently obtained a divorce from his wife, and the jury assessed the damages against the respondent, Major Duthey, at £2,000. On the application of counsel, the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Butt have now reduced the damages to £1,000.

The first anniversary of the opening of the Conservative Club at Ashby-de-la-Zouch was celebrated on Tuesday evening by a Unionist demonstration, held in the market hall, at which Lord Donington, who presided, stated that the club, although only a year old, numbered no less than 243 members. Mr. Harrington Hulston and other gentlemen addressed the meeting.

During the quarter ended September 30th, there were, according to a return just issued, 173 agrarian outrages in Ireland, including two cases of murder, two cases of firing at the person, nine cases of assault, 37 offences against property, and 119 offences affecting the public peace. Galway and Clare head the list with 31 and 27 offences respectively.

The corpse of Mme. de Villeroi, who committed suicide a few days since by jumping from the bridge of Boulogne into the Seine, was found caught in some trees 200 yards from the bridge. Mme. de Villeroi was a niece of Baron Hirsch, and a daughter of Baron Goldschmidt, one of the wealthiest financial men in Paris. The two families had offered a reward of £400 for the recovery of the body.

At Dover, a Swedish seaman has been sent to prison for fourteen days for riotous conduct. The man, who alleged that he was duped by a woman, armed himself with a long-bladed knife, and ran into several houses in the neighbourhood of the pier, threatening to kill all the women he met with. Great excitement prevailed, the report having spread that he was the Whitechapel

murderer. Before he could be removed to the police station he had to be tied down on a barrow.

France's Grand Old Man—M. Ferdinand de Lesseps, of Suez and Panama Canals fame—was 80 on Tuesday.

The taxes which John Jacob Astor—the New York millionaire—has to pay amount to a quarter of a million dollars.

The amount of food, liquid and solid, which the average man consumes in his seventy years is calculated at no less than eighty tons.

English is spoken at one of the restaurants at Antwerp. Here is the signboard—"Koffy eten, beefstukken, English launching house."

The death-rate in London last week was 19.7 per thousand, a slight increase upon the previous week.

On several estates in the counties of Limerick and Clare the agents have been most successful during the present week in collecting rents.

Heavy gales during the early part of the week prevailed over England and Scotland, and in the north there were severe storms of hail and snow. Several fatalities occurred at sea.

Mr. Walter Atherstone, living at Ringmore, near Teignmouth, Devon, committed suicide by blowing off part of his head with a gun charge. He was 60 years of age.

"Will you give me the money?" shouted Joseph Spinelli, a young fellow of Pittsburgh to his mother. No, the would not. Rushing upon her, he stabbed her to death.

An Irishwoman, named Elizabeth Byrne, who had given offence by appearing against a prisoner, was attacked by a mob in Dublin, and so roughly handled that her skull was fractured.

At the Greenwich Police Court a young man named Fawcett was fined 4s. and costs for taking a loaded revolver into train on the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.

The body of a young woman was found on the Great Western Railway, near Stoke-Cannon, and was identified as that of Amy Rowe, of Cornwall, who for the past month has been in service at the residence of the town clerk of Exeter.

At the City Sessions Court, a young man named George Harris was fined 20s. and costs for throwing coppers from a window of a house on Cornhill to a crowd that had assembled beneath the Lord Mayor's Day.

The Court will remain at Windsor until after the 14th of next month, the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort and Princess Alice, and will then proceed to the Isle of Wight for Christmas.

It is stated that the Russian Government has given the Bulgarian refugees to understand that Russia definitely renounces any claims she may previously have held to the occupation of Bulgaria.

James Watson, a magistrate for the burgh of Linlithgow, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for embezzling £272, the monies of the Redding Coal Company, for which he was agent in Linlithgow.

A duel with swords was fought in Paris between M. Andrieux and M. Yves Guyot, the writer of a letter in the *Le Temps* accusing M. Andrieux of appropriating money, and of being in league with M. Gilly. M. Andrieux was slightly wounded.

It is stated that the London and North-Western and the Great Western Railway Company have agreed to purchase the lines belonging to the Wirral Railway Company and the Seacombe and Hoylake Company and the New Brighton branch lines.

A contract has been made by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company with various Pennsylvania mills for the supply of 45,000 tons of steel rails, to be delivered next year, at \$28 per ton. This shows an advance on recent prices, and has strengthened the iron market.

In speaking at the Kensington Town Hall the other night, Sir Francis de Winton mentioned that in letters received from Mr. Jamieson dated April last, he states that a rumour was then current that Mr. Stanley had arrived at his destination.

The report that the German Government was about to contract a "large loan" for extraordinary military expenditure is not credited at Berlin. Treasury bonds, however, are to be issued for sixty million marks on account of "extraordinary expenditure in connection with the army, navy, railways, and telegraphs."

Parisian ladies are patronising Irish lace much more extensively than fashionable Englishwomen. Madame Carnot, the President's wife, leads the way, and at a recent reception at the Elysée some two score of the best-dressed women wore Irish point as a trimming on their gowns.

The Crown Princess of Sweden was educated with some other girls in Karlsruhe, and was taught not only the ordinary branches of learning, but also the culinary art. Princess Victoria now often dons a cook's attire, and makes excellent omelettes (her grandfather's favourite dish) as well as appetising pancakes.

M. Dupré was a wealthy miller of Molins, who became suddenly insane. He sprinkled petroleum about in the three mills that he owned, and set fire to them. He then jumped into the flames, and as he did so he opened his mouth and discharged the revolver into it. Death was instantaneous. Domestic worry was the cause of this dramatic end.

At Birmingham, Albert Kent and Louisa Bryn, both about 17 years of age, have been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for committing a series of robberies. It was stated that some time ago the prisoners, who are respectively connected in Birmingham, eloped together, and had travelled from town to town, living on the proceeds of robberies by the way.

For cruelly beating his son, a child 10 years of age, a blacksmith, named George Pritten, has been sentenced, at the West Ham Police Court, to six months' imprisonment. The child was beaten most unmercifully about the head, face, and body with a large piece of cable rope whilst he was lying in bed, the wounds inflicted being of a serious character.

On the invitation of Sir Donald Currie, M.P., a large number of gentlemen went on board the Royal mail steamer Garth Castle at the East India Dock Basin on Tuesday, to lunch with Major Warton's team of English cricketers, who left in that vessel on Wednesday for Cape Town for a three months' cricketing tour in South Africa.

A serious disturbance occurred at the Islington Workhouse on Monday morning, a determined attack being made by eight men upon two of the labour-masters, named Morrison and Windsor. The officers were knocked down and repeatedly kicked, their injuries being very severe. The prisoners, in defence, said that they had been roughly treated by the labour-masters, and they alleged that Windsor used a knife. Mr. Horace Smith expressed his intention of sending the prisoners for trial.

At the Woolwich Police Court, a young man named Henry Fritchard has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for a series of assaults. He was in the Duke of Sussex, Hereford-street, and there he assaulted a customer and the landlord's son. He was ejected, and kicked the constables who took him into custody. He was placed in a cell with another prisoner, the rest of the cells being full. The other man in the cell was asleep, and the prisoner seized hold of him, tore his clothes almost off his body, threw him on the floor, and kicked him about the head and body.

A neighbour of Mrs. Muirhead, of Albert-street, Glasgow, observed a peculiar light flickering through the faint light above the door of the house. Opening the door she found the house filled with smoke, which rose from what was thought to be a heap of clothes on a chair. Some men threw a bucketful of water on the burning heap, when, greatly to their horror, they discovered it to be Mrs. Muirhead lying dead in the chair severely burned about the face and body. The paraffin

lamp, upset and extinguished, was lying on the table.

A man named Ready was shot in the leg on the highway, near Hereford, on Monday. He was a member of the Irish National League.

At Worcester Assizes on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Field sentenced to death Samuel Crowther, aged 70, for the murder of John Willis, at Droitwich, on August 1st.

At the Bedford Assizes, Arthur Fisher and William Turner, publisher and printer respectively, of Nottingham, have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for publishing a defamatory libel, in the *Modern Owl* newspaper concerning John Burgess, of Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

The body of Colonel Duncan, M.P., was buried with full military honours at Charlton Cemetery, Woolwich, on Tuesday. Immense crowds of people thronged the route from the house to the cemetery. There was a large gathering of the deceased's military and Parliamentary friends.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, M.P., has provided allotments for agricultural labourers at Hutton, in Kent, and has also made provision for those who do not strictly come within the operations of the Act of Parliament, but to whom a small quantity of arable land is of great value.

The Volunteer force is not so increased in the next financial year, except in districts where the number of men required under the home defence mobilisation scheme has not reached the full quota. Any spare funds from the Volunteer votes are to be devoted to improvement in the training and equipment of the force.

Mrs. Glyn, the wife of a Harlow magistrate, was being driven past a traction engine at Harlow, when one of the horses becoming restive, succeeded in overthrowing the carriage. Mrs. Glyn was only released with difficulty. The immediate result of the accident was that a limb had to be amputated. Death followed.

A gentleman named Holm, was being rowed from Cardiff to Platholm Island in equally weather, when the boatman, a man named Chase, suddenly dropped his oars and died. Mr. Holm, whilst naturally much horrified, succeeded in getting the boat with the dead boatman back to the shore.

The Peninsular, one of the two new mail steamers being built for the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company, made her trial trip last week, and developed a very satisfactory rate of speed. The vessel is 410 ft. long and 48 ft. beam, with a gross register tonnage of 5,000, and is intended to accommodate 133 first and 50 second class passengers.

So the decree has gone forth that ladies are to have no more locks brushed up and piled on the top of the head, leaving the shape of the neck uncovered. The Parisian deity has declared that the hair shall be free, with scarcely an assest of curls rising above the forehead, and—oh, shades of our gentle ancestors—long ringlets falling over the shoulders.

The Earl of Derby presided at the triennial festival of Charing Cross Hospital, held on Wednesday at the Hotel Metropole. In the course of an earnest appeal on behalf of the hospital, especially for the extension of the medical school, Lord Derby announced that a donation of £1,000 had been received from Miss M. Levy, and other donations raised the total to £32,250.

Princess Verona, daughter of a celebrated Moscow chief, is now lecturing in the United States. She recently announced publicly that she had collected £1,000,000 in London for the purpose of establishing a University at Washington for educating Indians. Colonel Jacques, of London, who formerly lived in Philadelphia, is said to have pledged to the cause this handsome sum of money.

John Doyle, labourer, was engaged on board the steamer *Michigan*, in Liverpool, in unscrewing the valves of the air pump attached to one of the engines. He had his head and arms in the cylinder when the engines were started, and the piston coming down upon him severed his head and both arms from his body. It is stated that Doyle was warned that the engines were about to be started.

One of the most remarkable incidents of the moment is reported from Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Geo. Hirsch, of Navarro county, has given birth to six children, all of whom are living and doing well. Four are boys and two are girls. The boys have been named Frederick, Mills, Cleveland, and Thurman; the girls are Victoria and Louise. The babies have been labelled carefully so as to preserve their identity.

At the quarterly court of governors of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Queen's-road, Chelsea, it was announced that the silver fete, held in July at the Danish Exhibition, had benefited the charity to the extent of £4,063. This sum enabled them to get their new building, to replace the endowment fund, and to complete various structural alterations and improvements, while having £1,000 left to invest.

A veterinary surgeon, named George James, of Sydenham, was committed for trial from the Greenwich Police Court charged with obtaining money by false pretences. He had received £50 from a surgeon in Newington Causeway towards the transfer of a business and the leases of certain premises. But, desiring to withdraw from the negotiation, the latter was unable to obtain a return of the money, and then discovered that the defendant was an uncertificated bankrupt.

One of the old campaigners who returned from Moscow under Murat, in the disastrous retreat of the Grand Army in November, 1812, still lives in Bordeaux, and will be 108 years old on December 4th next, the seventy-sixth anniversary, or thereabouts, of the day when Napoleon issued his famous twenty-ninth bulletin at Maloderno, and set out for Paris. The veteran, named Zelenki, is of Polish origin, and is in receipt from the State of a pension of 40 fr. a month.

On Tuesday next the Earl of Meath will ask the Government whether it is true that the Metropolitan Board of Works, in opposition to the wishes of the Vestry of St. Marylebone, have sanctioned, contrary to law, buildings to be erected on the south side of the Marylebone-road, east of Seymour-place, encroaching 35 ft. upon the 50 ft. of the margin of the road; and, if so, whether they will take steps to prevent the board from permitting the Marylebone-road to be thus narrowed.

By the new press regulations communicated by the Porte to the local newspapers in Constantinople, they are not allowed to publish the petitions of the inhabitants of any country, province, or town. No article dealing with religion may be given; all polemical discussion of a personal character is forbidden, as well as any attack upon ambassadors and public functionaries down to gentlemen. Further, no work of fiction is to be published which has not had the previous sanction of the Minister of Public Instruction.

Mr. Justice Kekewich presided on Wednesday night, at the Cannon-street Hotel, at the festivities in honour of the jubilee of the North London District of the Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows, and the institution of the Widows and Orphans Society, of which Mr. John Towell is president. The reports presented showed that of the 700,000 members of the Manchester Unity, 16,000 were in the North London District; and of the total worth of the order (£60,800,000), £237,000 was in the district. In connection with the Widows and Orphans' Society, at the end of 1887 there was a reserve capital of £63,177.

At Hastings a verdict of accidental death has been returned at an inquest held on the body of one of the inmates of the workhouse at Battle. A few evenings since the deceased, with another woman, was working in the laundry. They had covered over the windows to prevent the master seeing the light, as they did not wish him to know they were there. The door was shut, and they found the room very hot, and became giddy and then insensible. They were found lying motionless in the laundry. Steps were taken to restore animation but one woman died, it being

supposed that the fuel was piled up in the stove and that all the gas did not go up the chimney.

As soon as Sullivan recovers he means to again challenge Kilrain. Kilrain laughs at the idea.

A "ring" has been formed in connection with the potteries industry and the manufacturers of china.

A railway train has been wrecked near Harrison, Ohio. Forty persons were more or less injured.

The will of the late Lord Sackville, under which he left the bulk of his property to four maids of honour, is to be disputed.

Cardinal Lavergne has taken to the Pope a letter from M. Carnot. French politicians are eager to know its contents.

Queen Natalie is in favour with the Czar. At all events, he has placed the Chateau of Yalta at her disposal.

Early on Thursday morning the Continental Restaurant in the King's-road, Brighton, and facing West Pier, was destroyed by fire.

On the last day of the first week of November 97,581 papers were relieved in the metropolitan district.

In memory of the late Admiral Sir Cooper Ker, a painted glass window has been placed in St. Luke's Church, Maidenhead, under the shadow of which church his remains rest.

Charles Skimins was crossing the Camden Town Goods Station when he was knocked down by a passing train. When his body was picked up it was found to be terribly mutilated.

The drought in Australia is becoming very serious, and it is expected that the wheat and wool harvests will be deficient. Numerous bush fires have also occurred in the country.

A requisition, signed by electors of all political parties in South Island, was on Thursday presented to Sir A. Rollet, M.P., asking him to become a candidate for the London County Council.

The Emperor Francis Joseph desires that the money which would otherwise be spent in purchasing presents in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of his accession to the throne, shall be devoted to the poor and to charitable objects.

Donald McPhail, a Campbelltown farmer, left home on the 12th to go to Lochgilphead market. His body has just been found in a barn near Dallochbuie, with several cuts and bruises about the face and head. There had been no robbery.

The Bishopric of Oxford is declared to be vacant in consequence of the resignation, through physical infirmity, of Dr. Mackenzie. Archdeacon Sumner has been appointed Bishop Suffragan of the See of Gloucester.

The Society of Arts held the first meeting of its winter session on Wednesday night, when the Duke of Abercorn, who presided, delivered the opening address, taking for his subject the "Industries of England."

A French barge has been wrecked off the Scheldt, on the coast of Holland. Two persons only of those on board were cast upon the shore alive, and it is feared that all the others

BOOTS FOR POOR CHILDREN.

Mrs. LEACH'S CHRISTIAN NUMBER of the "FAMILY MARK" is issued at 2d., and contains an extra gift Supplement of Evening and Morning Mail Dress, a list of names of the "Widow, Orphan and Destitute," a lesson how to become your own dressmaker, and a beautiful matter for the ladies. The Christmas Number "CHILDREN'S JOURNAL" is a marvel of itself. The FINEST price of 6d. for the "Widow, Orphan and Destitute" children and Youth, of all ages, they be had, everywhere, of the two boxes by post free delivered. LEACH & JOHNSON'S COURT, FINE-STREET, LONDON. See-1

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